



SCAR Executive Committee Meeting 2017
Brno, Czech Republic, 31 July - 2 August 2017

Capacity Building, Education and Training (CBET) including future plans

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Summary (<150 words):

The CBET Committee has begun to work on the roles defined and approved at the 2016 Delegates meeting with teams assigned to each role. The Committee has reconstituted its membership, importantly including greater representation from Early Career Scientists in collaboration with APECS. In collaboration with the Development Council extra funding was successfully solicited to support both the Fellowships and Visiting Professor schemes for 2017.

SCAR administration of the Tinker-Muse Prize has been renewed for one year, to complete the first 10 Prizes, and a 5-year renewal will be applied for in 2018.

Recommendations that EXCOM should consider (if any):

The number and quality of applications for each of the capacity building activities requires action to ensure depth and diversity are addressed. The Committee will work on the procedures for a new Medal to honour excellence in Capacity Building and Outreach, the first of which will be presented at Polar2018 in Davos.

CBET Committee Activities 2016-2017

Update on the activity and membership of the CBET Committee

- Online Meeting on 13th December 2016 attended by 4 Committee members - Action Plan approved addressing each of the redefined CBET tasks.
- Online Meeting on 27th March 2017 attended by 7 Committee members - Teams for each of the tasks identified and progress noted.
- 3 APECS representatives have volunteered and been appointed to the Committee – Hanne Neilsen, Gabriela Roldan and Alex Thornton. All hold leadership roles within the APECS Executive.
- Gary Steel, Liz Pasteur and Satoshi Imura have stood down from the Committee owing to other commitments.

Summary of the progress on each of the tasks identified for the Committee

1. Overseeing the review of our Fellowship applications and reporting:
 - a. Reviewers now self-select areas of expertise, to be matched to applicant chosen keywords.
 - b. Spanish language version of the Fellowships Mentoring webinar coordinated with COMNAP and APECS in March 2017.
 - c. Make use of webinar survey results from 2016/17 to guide further provision.
2. Liaise with representatives in the education field:
 - a. List of resources begun and contacts with PEI provide educational resources to be highlighted in the SCAR newsletter.
3. Liaison with the SG, SRP and Group leadership to monitor the level of funding for Early Career Scientists (ECS) and effectiveness as network nodes, specifically addressing openness towards the whole community:
 - a. Alex Thornton has joined Rahul Mohan to address this role.
 - b. Reports available to the team have been assessed to highlight activities from the groups and will be supplemented with reports provided to the EXCOM 2017 meeting.
4. Liaison with the Development Council to investigate extra funding for the Fellowships and other programs through additional voluntary contributions and other means:
 - a. Additional voluntary contributions were secured for an extra fellowship (India) and extra Visiting Professorships (India, Norway and Switzerland).
 - b. Development Council to continue development of SCAR brochure and engagement with IAATO.
5. Organizing mentoring to investigate the best way to provide support for potential Fellowship applicants:
 - a. Hanne Neilsen appointed as APECS representative to assist VP CBET on this team.

- b. 4 previous Fellowship recipients have volunteered to support this role.
 - c. Investigating provision of online anonymous question posting and answering service.
 - d. Progress the appointment of junior officers across SCAR Groups once principle is approved by ExCom.
6. Develop a plan for improved capacity building for developing programmes:
- a. Initially new member countries are to be approached to enquire about their perceptions of capacity building needs and opportunities.

Action items

Each team to produce a paragraph outlining their preferred mode of working to achieve each task.

General presentation on SCAR website to be available as a series of slides that a suitable subset can be drawn from.

Development of procedures for the new SCAR Capacity Building and Outreach Medal.

Full details of the list of outstanding CBET tasks are included in the report on Combined Actions. In general support for each of the teams with their tasks is required but of particular note are support for new leadership in Tasks 2 and 6.

Future Plans

Action and Expert Group reports prepared for EXCOM 2017 will be used to add information to the list of examples of Outreach and Capacity Building activities. There will hopefully also be a broadening of the pool of reviewers for Fellowships.

Integrating the mentoring support provided by APECS and SCAR to support not just Fellowship applications, but follow-ups to the opportunities for collaboration identified through the application process and other areas of complementary opportunities to provide support.

Sharpening the concept for Visiting Professorships with the aim to focus more on its original mission of providing support for developing programmes and to broaden the range of applicants.

Open meeting at Polar2018 in Davos scheduled for 1300-1600, Saturday June 16th.

Overview of the Capacity Building Schemes

The SCAR Fellowship Scheme

- SCAR and COMNAP schemes now being evaluated separately after request from COMNAP EXCOM.
- Keyword matching between applicants and reviewer expertise being implemented in 2017 – also removes one stage from reviewing process which should reduce the overall timeline from close of applications to Fellowship awards.
- A joint SCAR-COMNAP-APECS Spanish language Fellowships mentoring webinar was held in March 2017, with 46 participants and generally positive feedback.
- Success in attracting Humanities applicants, now more than either Physical or GeoSciences based applications, however Life Sciences still dominates.
- In 2017, 38 SCAR applications (37 SCAR only in 2016, 4 COMNAP only, 13 Combined).
- India provides funds for an additional Fellowship in 2017.

- Prince Albert II of Monaco Biodiversity Fellowship is awarded annually, last full contribution likely in 2018.
- Webinar registrants to be sent questionnaire to solicit feedback on application process as a whole.

The SCAR Visiting Professor Scheme

- In 2017 there were 9 applications, up from 8 in 2016.
- Three additional Visiting Professorships for 2017 due to contributions from Norway, Switzerland and India.
- There were however no female applicants in 2017 and there was only one female applicant in 2016.
- Several applications each year pay little or no attention to the basic mission of the scheme.
- A review of this programme should be considered to investigate whether it is achieving the aims envisaged when it was established, and what changes may be required to do so.

The Tinker-Muse Prize

- 2017 had 8 nominations, the same number as in 2016, although lower than the prior 3 years when there were 12-15 nominations.
- The 2017 winner is Professor Matthew England of University New South Wales, Australia, the Award Ceremony will be at the International Conference for Southern Hemisphere Meteorology and Oceanography (ICSHMO) meeting in Sydney in February 2018.
- The existing agreement for SCAR to administer the Prize expires in 2017 but a renewal for one year has been granted, covering year 10 of the Prize.
- A 5-year renewal is to be submitted in 2018 (to represent years 11 to 15 of the Prize) the broad details of which will be agreed in advance with the Tinker Foundation. An outline has been discussed with Renate Rennie and will be considered by the Tinker Foundation Board.
- An event to mark the 10-year anniversary for the Muse Prize is being discussed, to be held in conjunction with the SCAR 60-year anniversary at the Polar2018 meetings in Davos, June 2018. At present this is envisaged to be a panel event, similar to the Muse Prize Colloquium held at the Horizon Scan in 2014, with the broad theme of "The Global Impact of Antarctic Research".

Budget

Planned use of funds for 2017 and 2018

2017 has so far budget supported 2 Early Career Scientist attendees at the Polar Educators International Workshop in Italy with travel grants of USD\$500 each. These were the only representatives from South America and Asia at the meeting.

Support of USD\$1000 has also been committed for an Early Career Scientist to attend the Polar Science Communication Workshop in Boulder, Colorado in August 2017.

Briefly describe what the funds will be used for and what the desired results are:

Remaining CBET funds will be used to target specific capacity building and ECS support opportunities.